

morphina oblonga, *Polystomella striato-punctata*, and *Nonionina depressula* abound on the mud zone of Sluys-Kill. A large synoptical table is appended, showing the localities and relative abundance or rarity of the 86 recent species MM. Miller and Vanden Broeck have collected. They treat of the difficulty of determining specific types among this low class of creatures (pp. 31 &c.), and explain that they give preference to the plan of nomenclature established by the English rhizopodists, Williamson, Carpenter, Parker, and Jones.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. ALBANY HANCOCK.

ALBANY HANCOCK died, after a long illness, on the 24th of October. He was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1806, and was one of a band of naturalists gradually passing from our midst, who have made this district famous in scientific circles, especially for British zoology. He was one of the founders of the Natural-History Society of that town, and also of the Tyneside Natural-History Field-Club, and a constant contributor to their 'Transactions,' and for many years an active member of the Committee of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, in which he has always taken a lively interest.

The number of this band of naturalists has gradually dwindled by the loss of Adamson, Hutton, Alder, Fryer, and others; but we have with us Hewitson, John Hancock, Embleton, King, Norman, Howse, and others, who are still working in their vocation.

Mr. Albany Hancock, in conjunction with his brother John, mainly by their efforts in the local committee, greatly contributed to gathering together the splendid collection of art and science that was exhibited in the Central Exchange during the meeting of the British Association in 1863.

Mr. Hancock's contributions were not confined to the 'Transactions' of his district, but many valuable papers emanating from his pen are in the 'Transactions' of the Royal, and the 'Transactions' and 'Journals' of the Linnean, the Zoological, and the Geological Societies, and in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History.' He was a most accurate anatomical examiner and describer; and his great abilities as a draughtsman enabled him to accompany his papers with beautiful plates. His most celebrated work, prepared and written in conjunction with his friend Joshua Alder, and published by the Ray Society, is that on the British Nudibranchiate Mollusca, which was completed in 1855. It will be in the recollection of our readers that Mr. Alder died in 1867, and that he had been engaged in conjunction with Mr. Albany Hancock in the preparation of a work on the British Tunicata, to be published by the Ray Society. Subsequently to his colleague's death Mr. Hancock

devoted himself with great assiduity to the study of the anatomy and physiology of this interesting class of the Molluscoïda, and, when compelled by increasing weakness to relinquish the use of the microscope, had nearly, if not quite, completed his investigation of the Ascidiadæ. Both manuscript and plates of this work are, we are led to hope, in such an advanced state that there is still a prospect of the work being published. During the last three years, when unable from ill-health to pursue his microscopic dissections of the Tunicata, he turned his attention to the investigation and description of the fossils of the Coal-measures; and to this we owe the valuable series of papers published by him, in conjunction with Mr. Atthey and Mr. Howse, on some of the rarer specimens in the remarkably fine collection of the former of these two geologists. In 1858 the Royal Society awarded Mr. Hancock the Royal Medal, in recognition of his scientific labours in general, and with especial reference to his exhaustive paper "On the Organization of the Brachiopoda" (Phil. Trans. 1858, p. 791). He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society, and also a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society. In 1866 the Imperial Royal Botanical and Zoological Society of Vienna conferred upon him and upon his friend Mr. Alder the diploma of Honorary Fellow. In the list of scientific papers published by the Royal Society there are thirty-one papers published in his own name, in conjunction with Mr. Alder sixteen, with Dr. Embleton five, and with Mr. Norman one; and he has published several papers in the 'Annals' and other works since this list was printed. His papers on the fossils of the Carboniferous strata consist of twelve written in conjunction with Mr. Atthey, and four with Mr. Howse.—J. E. GRAY.

On a Variety of Chersina angulata.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The British Museum has just received an adult male specimen of this tortoise, which was formerly in the possession of Mr. Arthur Adams, who obtained it at the Cape of Good Hope. It is peculiar for having the hinder marginal plate on the side of the caudal plate shorter than usual, so that the suture between it and the plate before it is on the same line as the suture between the hinder edge of the fourth costal plate and the lateral edge of the fifth vertebral plate. I am inclined to regard this as an accidental variation; for in another large specimen of the same sex in the same collection, and in ten other specimens in the British Museum, the suture between the hinder and penultimate marginal shields is always before the suture between the hinder costal and last vertebral shield; but I do not believe that this difference is specific as one zoologist seemed inclined to consider it, because the width of the last marginal plate varies in different specimens, and in one specimen they differ on the two sides. I therefore only regard it as an accidental variety, which also has the upper margin of the caudal plate much narrower than usual; but the shape of this plate varies in the male specimens in the Museum.